

MISSION FARRIER SCHOOL

Course I – Outline

8-Week Basic Farrier Education

This is an outline only. There is much more to be discussed in detail. Cases will be taken as they present themselves in class. Given that it is impossible in an 8-week program to work on every type of case one may encounter, all aspects contained below will be discussed via classroom instruction. **Much has changed in farrier education. It's more than just cutting off the long and nailing something onto the short. We will teach you to read a foot and think thru a protocol by developing a "feel", using the 5-Guidelines for Evaluating Hoof Health, Hoof-Mapping techniques, common sense, intuition, knowledge and your skill as it develops.**

Week 1

Anatomy: External Structures of the Hoof.
Understanding the Shoeing Positions.
Understanding your tools.
Safety guidelines.
Introduction to: Pulling Shoes, Trimming Feet, Driving Nails, Finishing Feet.
Anvil Basics/Forging
How to Succeed in Business
Horseshoes and Nails - Identification.

Week 2

Anatomy: Sensitive Structures of the Hoof.
Keg Shoe Modifications.
Introduction to 5-Guidelines.
Pre-Shoeing Analysis: Evaluating Foot Falls
Hoof Mapping: Recognition of Distortion
Basic Shoeing.

Week 3

Anatomy: Bones of the Lower Leg.
Conformation and its effects on movement.
Biomechanics of the Natural Hoof.
Learning to evaluate soundness.
Forging/Anvil Work
Barefoot Trims
Shoeing Practice

Week 4

Anatomy: Tendons & Ligaments.
Lameness Evaluation of the Lower Limb.
Angular Limb and Flexor Deformities.

Barefoot Trims
Basic & Performance Shoeing.

Power Point Presentation:

- (1) The Natural Foot.
- (2) What Goes Wrong and Why.
- (3) Coronary Grooving and Siping.

Forging: Shoe Modifications & Hand-Made Shoes.

Week 5

Review of Anatomy.
Discussions of: P-3 Fractures, Ring bone, Laminitis and Founder, Navicular syndrome vs. disease, Chronic Heal Lameness.
Pad's, Packing, and Frog Support.
Horsemanship: Handling Bad Actors.
Horsemanship: Round Pen Work.
Trimming/Shoeing: Time management.

Week 6

Anatomy: Review
Therapeutic Shoeing and Support Systems.
Basic, Performance and Advanced Shoeing.
Discussion/Application of Glue-on Shoes (steel, aluminum, composites).
Stepping up our Forging Skills.
Dissection of the Lower Limb.

Week 7

Review: Forging skills.
Recognition of Gait Faults.
Toe Clips, Side Clips, Trailers, Heal Caulks.
Shoes to Correct Gait Faults.
Blemishes and Unsoundness.
Review of Basic, Specialty and
Therapeutic Shoeing.

Week 8

Review: Shoeing for Soundness and Conformation
Vet/Farrier Relations
Certification Discussions: "Is it required"?
"Who offers It"?
"When can (or should) I take it"?
Review of Certification opportunities offered thru several different farrier associations.
Setting Up Your Business
Beginning Inventory
Review-How to Succeed in Business
Testing.